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Labor Market Digest, September 2008

Maine Department of Labor

Center for Workforce Research and Information

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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Center for Workforce
Research and Information

INSIDE . . .

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Nonfarm employment declined by 800 over the year.....page 6

*A publication of
the*

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Center for Workforce
Research and Information

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LABOR MARKET DIGEST

September Data

November 2008

Older Workers

ARE THERE MORE OLDER PEOPLE IN THE NATION'S WORKPLACE? This was a question answered in the affirmative by a recent report published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Although this report did not offer specific reasons why, the evidence indicates that people are working longer as they live longer and are healthier according to the AARP. And increasingly, economic reasons for working longer than planned are mounting as the cost of health insurance rises and the value of 401(k) plans drops. According to Deborah Russell, director of workforce issues at the AARP, "... research indicates that boomers intend to work past traditional retirement age both for the money and the health insurance."

ARE THERE MORE OLDER PEOPLE IN MAINE'S WORKPLACE? Labor force participants aged 65 and over (older) have been increasing due to both the rising number of older Maine residents and an increasing rate of participation. While the percentage of the civilian population active in the labor force – the civilian labor force participation rate – declined from 2000 to 2007 for the total population aged 16 and over, the participation rate for the older population in Maine rose.

Employment in Maine

This data discussed in this section comes from the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program, which is based on employer records linked to Census data. The primary exclusion to this employment measure is the self employed. The LED measure of employment used was wage and salary workers who were employed by the same employer in both the current and previous quarter.

***There was a net increase of
6,493 jobs held by
older workers; workers under
65 accounted for a net
gain of 5,724.***

In 2000 older workers held 2.8 percent of wage and salary jobs; by 2007, 3.9 percent. Although this may seem like a small number, the significance of it is reflected in net changes in jobs held by age. Total wage and salary employment increased by 12,217 between the 12 months ending December 2000 and the 12 months ending December 2007. There was a net increase of 6,493 jobs held by older workers; workers under 65 accounted for a net gain of 5,724.

Within the private sector, the number of jobs held by workers 65 years of age and older increased by 5,072, more than twice the gain in jobs held by workers under 65. While all of the industries with the exception of utilities contributed to net employment gains by older workers (see table on page eight), two industries accounted for over 50 percent of the increase – retail trade and health care and social assistance.

The number of government jobs held by workers 65 years of age and older increased by 1,451. Government jobs held by workers under 65 years of age rose by 3,568.

cont. on page 8

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by Labor Market Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

| AREA | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ¹ | | | EMPLOYED ² | | | UNEMPLOYED ³ | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴ | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 08 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 |
| LABOR MARKET AREA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta | 43,610 | 44,700 | 43,260 | 41,540 | 42,700 | 41,460 | 2,070 | 2,000 | 1,790 | 4.7% | 4.5% | 4.1% |
| Augusta-Waterville Combined ⁶ | 66,100 | 67,140 | 65,520 | 62,860 | 63,980 | 62,640 | 3,240 | 3,160 | 2,880 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.4 |
| Bangor | 71,400 | 71,100 | 70,100 | 67,800 | 67,600 | 67,000 | 3,600 | 3,500 | 3,100 | 5.1 | 5.0 | 4.4 |
| Belfast | 13,320 | 13,780 | 13,290 | 12,620 | 13,060 | 12,670 | 700 | 720 | 620 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 4.6 |
| Boothbay Harbor | 5,070 | 5,510 | 5,050 | 4,890 | 5,330 | 4,910 | 190 | 180 | 140 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 2.8 |
| Bridgton-Paris | 14,140 | 14,620 | 14,040 | 13,220 | 13,720 | 13,330 | 920 | 900 | 710 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.1 |
| Brunswick | 35,130 | 35,940 | 35,150 | 33,640 | 34,520 | 33,890 | 1,500 | 1,420 | 1,260 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.6 |
| Calais | 5,920 | 6,010 | 6,080 | 5,410 | 5,500 | 5,640 | 520 | 510 | 430 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 7.1 |
| Camden | 8,200 | 8,680 | 8,180 | 7,870 | 8,370 | 7,890 | 330 | 310 | 290 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.6 |
| Conway, NH-ME ⁷ | 4,030 | 4,390 | 4,010 | 3,900 | 4,230 | 3,870 | 140 | 160 | 140 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 9,580 | 9,630 | 9,490 | 8,750 | 8,790 | 8,840 | 830 | 850 | 650 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 6.8 |
| Ellsworth | 31,210 | 32,900 | 31,020 | 29,810 | 31,470 | 29,830 | 1,410 | 1,430 | 1,190 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 3.8 |
| Farmington | 16,360 | 16,540 | 16,500 | 15,250 | 15,410 | 15,580 | 1,110 | 1,120 | 910 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 5.5 |
| Houlton | 8,850 | 8,790 | 8,640 | 8,110 | 8,110 | 8,130 | 740 | 680 | 520 | 8.4 | 7.7 | 6.0 |
| Lewiston-Auburn | 57,700 | 58,200 | 57,100 | 54,600 | 55,300 | 54,600 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 2,600 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4.5 |
| Lincoln | 3,700 | 3,650 | 3,650 | 3,420 | 3,390 | 3,420 | 280 | 270 | 230 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 6.2 |
| Machias | 7,750 | 8,360 | 7,610 | 7,260 | 7,880 | 7,180 | 500 | 480 | 430 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| Madawaska | 2,970 | 3,080 | 2,880 | 2,770 | 2,900 | 2,710 | 200 | 180 | 170 | 6.8 | 5.9 | 6.0 |
| Millinocket | 4,070 | 4,080 | 4,000 | 3,680 | 3,710 | 3,670 | 390 | 370 | 330 | 9.5 | 9.1 | 8.2 |
| Pittsfield | 7,710 | 7,700 | 7,620 | 7,090 | 7,110 | 7,150 | 610 | 590 | 480 | 8.0 | 7.6 | 6.3 |
| Portland-South Portland-Biddeford | 206,900 | 212,000 | 205,200 | 198,600 | 204,300 | 198,000 | 8,300 | 7,700 | 7,100 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.5 |
| Portland-South Portland-Sanford Combined ⁶ | 218,100 | 223,500 | 216,300 | 209,100 | 215,100 | 208,600 | 9,000 | 8,300 | 7,700 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Portsmouth, NH-ME ⁷ | 9,620 | 9,890 | 9,620 | 9,320 | 9,550 | 9,260 | 300 | 340 | 360 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.7 |
| Presque Isle | 24,670 | 24,840 | 24,510 | 23,300 | 23,500 | 23,160 | 1,370 | 1,340 | 1,350 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Rochester-Dover, NH-ME ⁷ | 11,340 | 11,510 | 11,260 | 10,930 | 10,960 | 10,770 | 410 | 550 | 500 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 4.4 |
| Rockland | 12,920 | 13,300 | 12,700 | 12,320 | 12,700 | 12,190 | 600 | 590 | 510 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| Rumford | 9,340 | 9,630 | 9,370 | 8,590 | 8,850 | 8,710 | 760 | 780 | 660 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 7.0 |
| Saint George | 1,490 | 1,540 | 1,460 | 1,430 | 1,470 | 1,420 | 60 | 60 | 50 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
| Sanford | 11,200 | 11,490 | 11,150 | 10,500 | 10,800 | 10,620 | 700 | 690 | 530 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 4.8 |
| Skowhegan | 15,120 | 15,460 | 15,030 | 14,070 | 14,420 | 14,100 | 1,050 | 1,040 | 930 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 6.2 |
| Waldoboro | 9,770 | 10,380 | 9,700 | 9,340 | 9,980 | 9,360 | 430 | 410 | 350 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 3.6 |
| Waterville | 22,490 | 22,440 | 22,260 | 21,310 | 21,280 | 21,180 | 1,170 | 1,160 | 1,090 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 4.9 |
| York | 18,590 | 19,820 | 18,670 | 17,960 | 19,190 | 18,080 | 620 | 630 | 600 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| MAINE | 710,700 | 726,600 | 705,000 | 675,600 | 692,500 | 674,800 | 35,100 | 34,100 | 30,200 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.3 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 154,509 | 155,387 | 153,400 | 145,310 | 145,909 | 146,448 | 9,199 | 9,479 | 6,952 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 4.5 |

¹ Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current year estimates are preliminary; year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces.

² Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

³ People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

⁴ The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed by the total civilian labor force and is expressed as a percent.

⁵ Bangor; Lewiston-Auburn; Portland-South Portland-Biddeford; Portsmouth, NH-ME; and Rochester-Dover, NH-ME are Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Augusta, Brunswick, Rockland, Sanford, and Waterville are Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

⁶ Adjacent metropolitan and/or micropolitan statistical areas that have a specific level of economic integration, but still retain separate identities.

⁷ Maine portion of the area which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

| AREA | CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE | | | EMPLOYED | | | UNEMPLOYED | | | UNEMPLOYMENT RATE | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 08 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 |
| COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Androscoggin | 58,600 | 59,220 | 58,070 | 55,540 | 56,240 | 55,500 | 3,060 | 2,980 | 2,570 | 5.2% | 5.0% | 4.4% |
| Aroostook | 35,530 | 35,770 | 35,090 | 33,280 | 33,620 | 33,100 | 2,250 | 2,160 | 1,990 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.7 |
| Cumberland | 158,920 | 162,780 | 157,800 | 152,600 | 156,990 | 152,320 | 6,320 | 5,780 | 5,480 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.5 |
| Franklin | 13,900 | 14,060 | 14,010 | 12,970 | 13,110 | 13,250 | 930 | 950 | 760 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 5.5 |
| Hancock | 31,250 | 32,900 | 31,090 | 29,880 | 31,490 | 29,890 | 1,370 | 1,410 | 1,200 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 3.9 |
| Kennebec | 63,350 | 64,380 | 62,860 | 60,270 | 61,410 | 60,100 | 3,080 | 2,970 | 2,760 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.4 |
| Knox | 21,960 | 22,820 | 21,690 | 21,000 | 21,890 | 20,870 | 960 | 930 | 820 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 3.8 |
| Lincoln | 19,260 | 20,400 | 19,130 | 18,440 | 19,610 | 18,490 | 830 | 790 | 650 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 3.4 |
| Oxford | 28,090 | 29,140 | 27,900 | 26,250 | 27,290 | 26,410 | 1,840 | 1,850 | 1,490 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 5.3 |
| Penobscot | 78,790 | 78,450 | 77,390 | 74,390 | 74,190 | 73,690 | 4,400 | 4,260 | 3,710 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.8 |
| Piscataquis | 7,650 | 7,700 | 7,570 | 7,000 | 7,030 | 7,070 | 650 | 660 | 500 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 6.6 |
| Sagadahoc | 19,150 | 19,590 | 19,110 | 18,320 | 18,790 | 18,450 | 830 | 800 | 660 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 3.5 |
| Somerset | 25,340 | 25,700 | 25,130 | 23,560 | 23,930 | 23,630 | 1,770 | 1,770 | 1,500 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 6.0 |
| Waldo | 19,200 | 19,730 | 19,080 | 18,170 | 18,710 | 18,190 | 1,040 | 1,020 | 890 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 4.7 |
| Washington | 14,520 | 15,240 | 14,520 | 13,460 | 14,200 | 13,620 | 1,070 | 1,040 | 900 | 7.3 | 6.8 | 6.2 |
| York | 115,140 | 118,750 | 114,600 | 110,430 | 113,990 | 110,260 | 4,710 | 4,760 | 4,340 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| MAINE | 710,700 | 726,600 | 705,000 | 675,600 | 692,500 | 674,800 | 35,100 | 34,100 | 30,200 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 4.3 |
| UNITED STATES (000) | 154,509 | 155,387 | 153,400 | 145,310 | 145,909 | 146,448 | 9,199 | 9,479 | 6,952 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 4.5 |

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Regional News

Western Maine

Trantens will be opening a new grocery store in downtown Farmington on January 1, 2009. They expect to hire 10 to 15 employees for the new store. ♦ The **Boiler Room Restaurant** in Wilton closed in September. No reason was given for the closure nor the number of workers effected. A new establishment is expected to open in its place within a month. ♦ A new **Rite-Aid** opened in Farmington.

Central Maine

Educare Center, a new early childhood development center, is slated to open in Waterville by September 2010. They expect to create more than 60 new jobs in the area. ♦ The US Navy has decided not to buy a third new advanced combat ship from either Lockheed Martin Corp. or General Dynamics. General Dynamics is the parent company of **Bath Iron Works (BIW)**. Each company will build one ship this year and will participate in a bidding contest for three additional ships to be built in 2009. ♦ **BIW** laid off 90 production workers in October due to a drop in workload. Also, **BIW** lost its bid to build 34 US Coast Guard ships worth 1.5 billion dollars.

Southern Maine

Oxford Aviation stated they will be expanding in the Brunswick Naval Air Station. They expect to expand their workforce from 68 to 200 within their first year of operation in Brunswick, with more jobs potentially to follow. ♦ **Wright Express** laid off 22 people in October and will reassign 40 other workers due to the slowdown in the economy. Twelve of the 22 workers laid off were in the South Portland location. ♦ **GE Healthcare** in Sanford, which makes medical testing devices, will be closing down its plant and laying off 225 workers by the end of 2009. Some of the workers may fill positions in their Westborough, MA plant. ♦ **Correct Building** in Biddeford has reduced its workforce by 25 workers in the production and office support areas. The company cites a seasonal downturn in the construction industry as well as difficult economic conditions for the layoffs.

North/East Maine

For the first time in several years, regular flight service will soon link southern and northern Maine. **New England Air Transport** says it will offer two round trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays connecting Portland with Presque Isle and Frenchville in northern Maine. ♦ A New York investment group called **Patriarch Partners** purchased the **Red Shield Environmental** Old Town pulp mill. The first employees will return to work as soon as November 7. The first pulp dryer is scheduled to be running by November 14.

Coastal Maine

Boston Financial Data Services moved into the former MBNA building in Rockland. The company currently employs 84 people and expects to hire more than 200 workers by the end of next year. ♦ A new **Walgreens** drug store opened in Ellsworth and currently employs 15 people. They expect to hire an unspecified number of additional workers. ♦ The **Hinckley Co.** laid off 49 workers at the Trenton and Southwest Harbor facilities. The majority of the layoffs were in their jet-propelled Picnic Boats. ♦ **Intricon Tibbets Corp.** laid off 20 workers from its Camden manufacturing plant as it moves some operations to Singapore. Tibbets manufactures electro-acoustic hearing aid devices.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

| ITEM | 2008 | | | | | 2007 | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | Sep | Aug | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 711.7 | 711.0 | 712.0 | 710.0 | 708.9 | 708.8 | 707.9 | 706.4 | 709.6 | 706.5 | 705.5 | 705.4 | 704.5 | |
| Employed | 671.9 | 671.6 | 673.1 | 672.6 | 670.7 | 675.2 | 672.3 | 672.8 | 674.5 | 671.9 | 671.3 | 671.0 | 670.2 | |
| Unemployed | 39.8 | 39.4 | 38.9 | 37.5 | 38.3 | 35.6 | 35.7 | 33.6 | 35.1 | 34.6 | 34.2 | 34.4 | 34.3 | |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | |

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted¹ (in thousands)

| INDUSTRY | 2008 | | | | | 2007 | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| | Sep | Aug | Jul | Jun | May | Apr | Mar | Feb | Jan | Dec | Nov | Oct | Sep | |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment | 615.3 | 616.1 | 616.9 | 617.1 | 616.1 | 615.1 | 618.2 | 617.3 | 619.1 | 619.8 | 618.9 | 617.9 | 617.7 | |
| Natural Resources | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | |
| Construction | 29.7 | 29.4 | 29.4 | 29.6 | 29.6 | 29.5 | 30.1 | 30.0 | 30.6 | 31.0 | 30.8 | 30.8 | 30.9 | |
| Manufacturing | 58.4 | 58.7 | 59.2 | 59.1 | 58.5 | 58.4 | 58.3 | 58.1 | 58.5 | 58.3 | 58.5 | 58.8 | 59.1 | |
| Durable Goods | 31.0 | 31.2 | 31.3 | 31.4 | 31.1 | 31.0 | 30.9 | 30.7 | 31.1 | 30.7 | 31.0 | 31.3 | 31.3 | |
| Nondurable Goods | 27.4 | 27.5 | 27.9 | 27.7 | 27.4 | 27.4 | 27.4 | 27.4 | 27.4 | 27.6 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.8 | |
| Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities | 124.8 | 125.2 | 125.4 | 125.8 | 126.0 | 125.6 | 126.8 | 126.5 | 127.1 | 127.3 | 127.3 | 126.2 | 126.0 | |
| Wholesale Trade | 20.7 | 20.8 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21.0 | 21.1 | 21.2 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.2 | |
| Retail Trade | 87.0 | 87.4 | 87.5 | 87.7 | 87.7 | 87.3 | 88.2 | 88.0 | 88.5 | 88.5 | 88.8 | 87.7 | 87.5 | |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 17.1 | 17.0 | 17.0 | 17.1 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.6 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 17.3 | |
| Information | 10.8 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.1 | |
| Financial Activities | 32.6 | 32.7 | 32.6 | 32.7 | 33.0 | 32.9 | 32.7 | 32.9 | 33.0 | 33.0 | 33.1 | 33.1 | 33.2 | |
| Finance and Insurance | 25.5 | 25.6 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 25.7 | 25.7 | 25.7 | 25.8 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 25.9 | 26.0 | 26.1 | |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | |
| Professional and Business Services | 55.6 | 55.7 | 55.7 | 55.1 | 54.3 | 54.2 | 54.0 | 54.1 | 54.1 | 54.2 | 54.1 | 54.0 | 54.0 | |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs. | 24.2 | 24.2 | 24.0 | 23.6 | 23.4 | 23.6 | 23.5 | 23.7 | 23.8 | 23.8 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 23.7 | |
| Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 24.9 | 24.9 | 25.1 | 24.7 | 24.3 | 24.0 | 24.3 | 24.0 | 24.2 | 24.1 | 24.0 | 23.9 | 23.9 | |
| Educational and Health Services | 117.5 | 117.6 | 117.0 | 117.1 | 117.3 | 116.9 | 117.0 | 117.0 | 116.8 | 116.7 | 116.3 | 116.0 | 116.2 | |
| Educational Services | 19.8 | 19.8 | 19.4 | 19.5 | 19.7 | 19.5 | 19.4 | 19.6 | 19.8 | 19.5 | 19.5 | 19.4 | 19.5 | |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 97.7 | 97.8 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 97.6 | 97.4 | 97.6 | 97.4 | 97.0 | 97.2 | 96.8 | 96.6 | 96.7 | |
| Leisure and Hospitality Services | 59.5 | 59.6 | 59.9 | 60.2 | 59.5 | 60.1 | 61.5 | 61.4 | 61.2 | 60.6 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 60.2 | |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.1 | |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 51.4 | 51.3 | 51.4 | 51.8 | 51.2 | 52.0 | 52.9 | 52.8 | 52.8 | 52.7 | 52.0 | 51.9 | 52.1 | |
| Other Services | 20.0 | 20.1 | 20.0 | 19.9 | 19.9 | 19.8 | 19.8 | 19.8 | 19.9 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 20.0 | 19.9 | |
| Government | 103.8 | 103.5 | 104.1 | 103.8 | 104.3 | 104.0 | 104.1 | 103.6 | 104.0 | 104.7 | 104.9 | 105.1 | 104.4 | |
| Federal Government | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.2 | 13.9 | 14.0 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 14.2 | 14.3 | |
| State Government | 27.7 | 27.6 | 27.7 | 27.3 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 27.9 | 27.9 | 27.6 | 27.9 | 28.3 | 28.2 | 27.6 | |
| Local Government | 61.8 | 61.6 | 62.1 | 62.2 | 62.0 | 61.6 | 62.0 | 61.8 | 62.4 | 62.7 | 62.4 | 62.7 | 62.5 | |

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. The Information industry is not suitable for seasonal adjustment because it has very little seasonal and irregular movement. Source: see page 2.

Maine Unemployment Rate 5.6 Percent in September

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the preliminary seasonally-adjusted September unemployment rate for Maine was 5.6 percent, up from 5.5 percent for August and 4.9 percent for September 2007. The national unemployment rate was 6.1 percent for September, unchanged from 6.1 percent for August.

"National economic trends are being felt by workers and businesses in Maine," Fortman said. "We are concerned about increased job loss as the economy continued to slow last month."

A net loss of 800 seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs between August and September contributed to a decline of 2,400 jobs over the past year. Between September 2007 and September 2008, job gains were recorded in professional and business services and educational and health services. Job losses were registered in construction; trade, transportation, and utilities; manufacturing; financial activities; government; and information.

Fortman cautioned that due to heavy call volumes it is taking workers longer to get through to file claims by phone. "We are encouraging workers to file their claims online at www.file4ui.com or by calling in their claims on Thursdays or Fridays when call volumes are lower," she said.

Other New England states reporting a seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for September include New Hampshire, 4.1 percent; Massachusetts, 5.3 percent; Connecticut, 6.1 percent; and Rhode Island, 8.8 percent. The adjusted national rate for September was 6.1 percent, unchanged from 6.1 percent for August and up from 4.7 percent for September 2007.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for September was 4.9 percent, up from 4.7 percent for August and 4.3 percent for September 2007. The unadjusted national rate was 6.0 percent for September, down from 6.1 percent for August and up from 4.5 percent for September 2007. Not-seasonally-adjusted September unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 4.0 percent for Cumberland County to 8.5 percent for Piscataquis County.

The number of not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine declined by 1,000 between August and September. Seasonal losses were recorded in leisure and hospitality services, retail trade, professional and business services, and construction. These declines were mostly offset by seasonal job gains in education. Local government educational jobs rose as nonprofessional school staff returned to work after the summer break. State government educational jobs increased as nonprofessional staff and work-study students returned to college and university payrolls. Jobs in private educational services also rose.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

| Key Data | Sep 2008 | Aug 2008 | Sep 2007 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average Duration | 14.1 | 14.2 | 14.3 |
| Average Weekly Benefit Amount* | \$268.68 | \$262.93 | \$253.44 |
| Exhaustees | 965 | 844 | 553 |

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

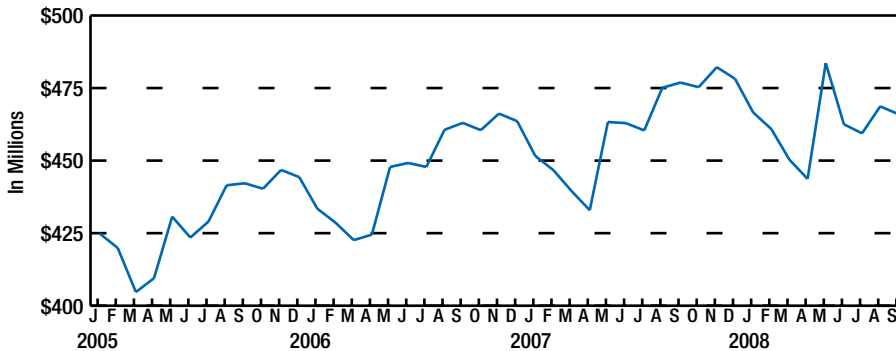
| Week | 9/27 | 9/20 | 9/13 | 9/6 | 8/30 | 8/23 | 8/16 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| 2008 | 1,000 | 1,084 | 1,191 | 977 | 1,077 | 1,078 | 1,092 |
| Week | 9/29 | 9/22 | 9/15 | 9/8 | 9/1 | 8/25 | 8/18 |
| 2007 | 764 | 833 | 846 | 558 | 895 | 785 | 737 |

Continued Claims Less Partial*

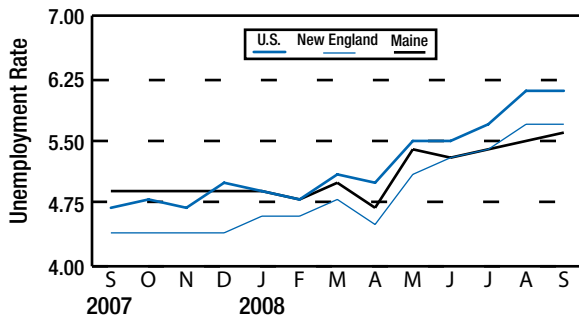
| Sep 2008 | Aug 2008 | Sep 2007 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 7,496 | 8,522 | 5,295 |

* For the week including the 12th of the month.

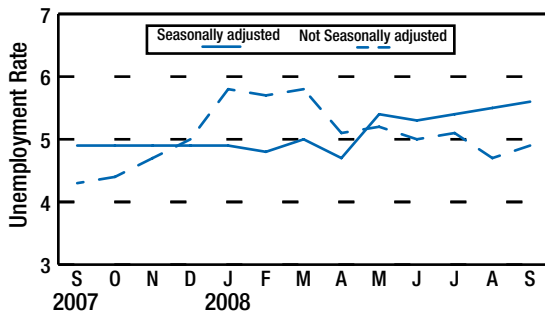
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



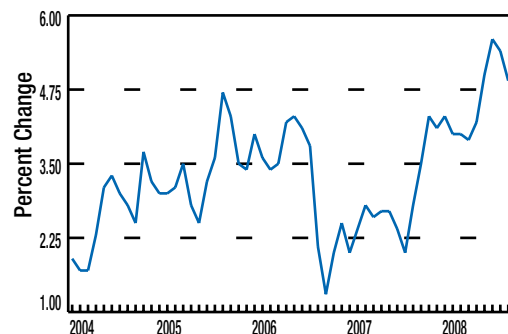
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

| Item | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Dec 07 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| (1982-1984 = 100) All Items | 218.8 | 219.1 | 208.5 | 210.0 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Percent Change from Prior Month | -0.1% |
| Percent Change from 12 Months Ago | +4.9% |
| Percent change from Last December | +4.2% |

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

| INDUSTRY | MAINE | | | PORTLAND- SO. PORTLAND MSA | | | LEWISTON- AUBURN MSA** | | | BANGOR MSA | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 08 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 |
| Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹ | 626.1 | 627.1 | 628.8 | 198.4 | 199.9 | 197.6 | 50.0 | 49.1 | 49.6 | 66.4 | 64.7 | 66.3 |
| Total Private | 522.0 | 535.7 | 524.1 | 173.1 | 177.9 | 172.4 | 44.2 | 44.1 | 43.7 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.0 |
| Goods Producing | 92.8 | 94.3 | 95.1 | 24.7 | 25.0 | 24.7 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.7 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.7 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Logging | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Construction | 31.3 | 31.9 | 32.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| Construction of Buildings | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 20.7 | 21.1 | 21.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Manufacturing | 58.8 | 59.7 | 59.5 | 14.4 | 14.5 | 14.4 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Durable Goods | 31.0 | 31.3 | 31.3 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.1 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Wood Product Manufacturing | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Computer and Electronic Product Mfg. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation Equipment Mfg. | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nondurable Goods | 27.8 | 28.4 | 28.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Paper Manufacturing | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Service-Providing | 533.3 | 532.8 | 533.7 | 173.7 | 174.9 | 172.9 | 41.5 | 40.6 | 40.9 | 59.4 | 57.7 | 59.6 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 125.5 | 127.9 | 126.7 | 42.1 | 42.8 | 41.8 | 10.3 | 10.3 | 10.2 | 15.3 | 15.3 | 15.5 |
| Wholesale Trade | 20.9 | 21.2 | 21.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Retail Trade | 87.3 | 89.4 | 87.7 | 28.1 | 28.7 | 27.7 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 10.3 |
| Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 10.2 | 10.3 | 10.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 18.7 | 19.8 | 18.7 | 6.0 | 6.6 | 6.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| General Merchandise Stores | 12.7 | 12.8 | 12.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nonstore Retailers | 8.7 | 8.2 | 8.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 17.3 | 17.3 | 17.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Utilities | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.7 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Information | 10.8 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Publishing Industries | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Financial Activities | 32.7 | 33.3 | 33.2 | 15.4 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Finance and Insurance | 25.4 | 25.7 | 25.9 | 12.3 | 12.4 | 12.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 11.8 | 11.9 | 11.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.3 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Professional and Business Services | 56.1 | 57.2 | 54.6 | 23.1 | 23.4 | 22.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs. | 23.8 | 24.1 | 23.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Mgmt. of companies and Enterprises | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs. | 25.9 | 26.6 | 24.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Education and Health Services | 117.3 | 116.3 | 116.0 | 35.0 | 34.6 | 34.6 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 13.7 | 13.5 | 13.8 |
| Educational Services | 19.6 | 18.3 | 19.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 97.7 | 98.0 | 96.6 | 30.6 | 30.6 | 30.2 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Ambulatory Health Care Services | 26.2 | 26.3 | 26.0 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Hospitals | 31.3 | 31.6 | 30.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Nursing and Residential Care | 22.2 | 22.4 | 22.2 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Social Assistance | 18.0 | 17.7 | 17.8 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 66.7 | 75.2 | 67.4 | 22.1 | 25.4 | 22.2 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 5.7 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 8.9 | 10.7 | 8.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 57.8 | 64.5 | 58.5 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Accommodation | 14.0 | 17.5 | 13.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 43.8 | 47.0 | 44.6 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| Other Services | 20.1 | 20.5 | 20.0 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Government | 104.1 | 91.4 | 104.7 | 25.3 | 22.0 | 25.2 | 5.8 | 5.0 | 5.9 | 12.9 | 11.2 | 13.3 |
| Federal | 14.3 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| State | 28.0 | 25.2 | 27.8 | 5.9 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 6.1 | 5.4 | 6.4 |
| Local ² | 61.8 | 51.8 | 62.6 | 17.1 | 14.7 | 17.1 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 5.6 |

* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

** The 2008 estimates for this area are not validated or published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Footnotes: See page 7

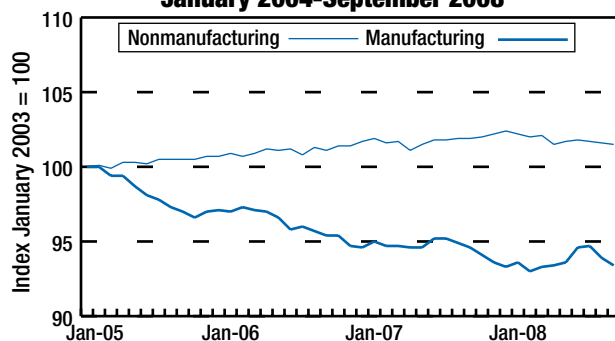
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

| AREA AND INDUSTRY | AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS | | | AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS | | | AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | | ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | Sep 08 | Aug 08 | Sep 07 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 |
| STATEWIDE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | \$833.32 | \$813.14 | \$829.89 | 41.5 | 40.8 | 42.8 | \$20.08 | \$19.93 | \$19.39 | \$19.19 | \$18.57 | \$17.28 |
| Durable Goods | 861.42 | 855.60 | 822.21 | 42.0 | 41.9 | 42.1 | 20.51 | 20.42 | 19.53 | 19.51 | 19.01 | 16.77 |
| Nondurable Goods | 806.06 | 771.37 | 837.81 | 41.0 | 39.7 | 43.5 | 19.66 | 19.43 | 19.26 | 18.87 | 18.18 | 17.81 |

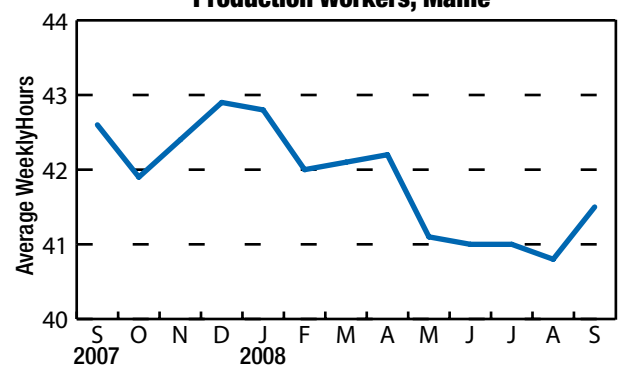
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Source: See page 2.

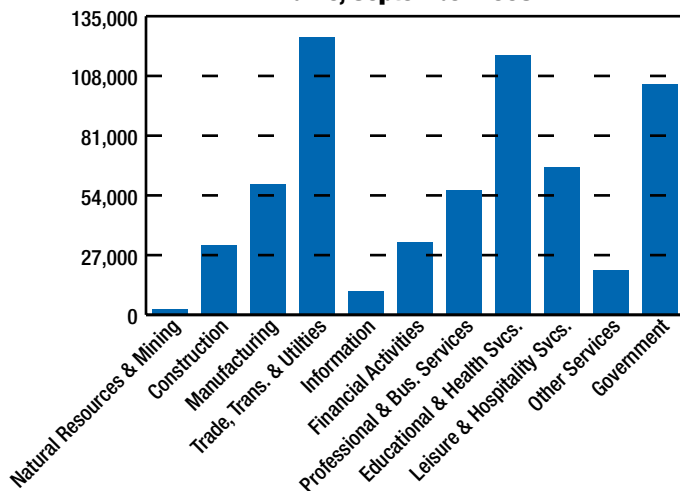
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2004-September 2008¹**



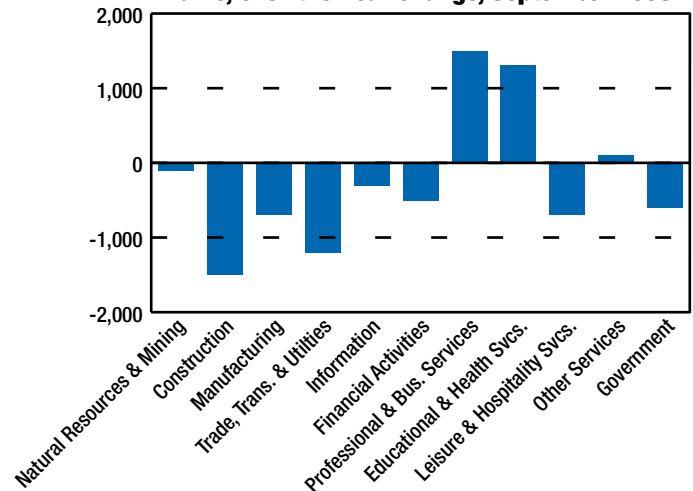
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, September 2008²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, September 2008²**



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Footnotes: From page 6.

¹ Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry. Current month's estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. These estimates are benchmarked to March 2007. As a measure of reliability, the March 2007 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was 0.05 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

² Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

Source: See page 2.

cont. from page 1

The Future

The rising significance of older workers in the workplace is expected to continue. While the rate of labor force participation for the population 16 and over in Maine is projected to decline slightly through 2016, the rate for the population 65 and over is expected to continue to rise. As a result of the rising participation rate and expected increase of the older population, the number of labor force participants 65 and older is projected to increase by 60 percent between 2006 and 2016.

| Maine Wage and Salary Employment* | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Workers Under 65 | | | | Workers 65 and Over | | | |
| | 2000** | 2007** | Change | | 2000** | 2007** | Change | |
| | | | Number | Percent | | | Number | Percent |
| Total Employment | 556,425 | 562,149 | 5,724 | 1.0 | 16,253 | 22,746 | 6,493 | 39.9 |
| Private Sector | 479,672 | 481,828 | 2,156 | 0.4 | 13,369 | 18,411 | 5,042 | 37.7 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting | 5,603 | 5,491 | -112 | -2.0 | 214 | 255 | 41 | 19.2 |
| Mining | 98 | 100 | 2 | 2.0 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Utilities | 2,363 | 1,892 | -471 | -19.9 | 31 | 30 | -1 | -3.2 |
| Construction | 28,161 | 29,211 | 1,050 | 3.7 | 656 | 963 | 307 | 46.8 |
| Manufacturing | 80,643 | 59,016 | -21,627 | -26.8 | 1,368 | 1,442 | 74 | 5.4 |
| Wholesale Trade | 20,293 | 20,806 | 513 | 2.5 | 534 | 779 | 245 | 45.9 |
| Retail Trade | 81,850 | 81,576 | -274 | -0.3 | 3,234 | 4,403 | 1,169 | 36.1 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 13,904 | 14,066 | 162 | 1.2 | 544 | 844 | 300 | 55.1 |
| Information | 10,795 | 11,244 | 449 | 4.2 | 270 | 342 | 72 | 26.7 |
| Finance and Insurance | 22,068 | 24,477 | 2,409 | 10.9 | 373 | 502 | 129 | 34.6 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 6,041 | 6,739 | 698 | 11.6 | 340 | 451 | 111 | 32.6 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 21,526 | 22,636 | 1,110 | 5.2 | 467 | 752 | 285 | 61.0 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 6,713 | 6,660 | -53 | -0.8 | 143 | 203 | 60 | 42.0 |
| Admin., Support, Waste Mgmt., & Remediation Svcs. | 23,055 | 22,361 | -694 | -3.0 | 689 | 872 | 183 | 26.6 |
| Educational Services | 8,309 | 10,352 | 2,043 | 24.6 | 285 | 490 | 205 | 71.9 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 79,369 | 92,649 | 13,280 | 16.7 | 2,036 | 3,463 | 1,427 | 70.1 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 6,919 | 7,340 | 421 | 6.1 | 319 | 448 | 129 | 40.4 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 46,205 | 49,818 | 3,613 | 7.8 | 1,023 | 1,239 | 216 | 21.1 |
| Other Services | 15,523 | 15,396 | -127 | -0.8 | 820 | 913 | 93 | 11.3 |
| Government | 76,753 | 80,321 | 3,568 | 4.6 | 2,884 | 4,335 | 1,451 | 50.3 |
| *An individual is defined as employed when that individual has valid unemployment insurance wage records for the current quarter and the preceding quarter. | | | | | | | | |
| **Average for 12 months ending December | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Local Employment Dynamics Program. | | | | | | | | |

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